Rase in consumer price index

194. SHRI *S.* S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the con sumer price index have been rising consistently for the last several months and is continuing to register double digits;

(b) if so, the reasons of such high inflation rate despite favourable econo mic parameters e.g. good agricultural production, growing industrial produc tion, etc.; and

(c) the steps taken, if any, to bring down the inflation rate back to single digit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The inflation based on the consumer price index for industrial workers has ranged from 9.8 per cent in April 1994 to 11.2 per cent in September 1994. In the month of December for which latest data is available, it had dropped to 9.5 per cent.

(b) The price rise in this fiscal year has been more broad based with non-cereal foods recording a higher inflation rate than foodgrains. For example, the price of milk and milk products rose by 11 per cent, eggs, fish and meat by 23 per cent, condiments and spices by 23 per cent, oilseeds by 26 per cent, edible oils by 23 per cent tea by 56 per cent and coffee by 136 per cent. On the other hand the price of wheat, rose by only 0.3 per cent, rice by 8.4 per cent and in case of sugar and Khandsari the prices were lower by 2-3 per cent, compared to last year.

(c) Government has taken a number of steps on the supply side to moderate the price—of important essential com-: modifies. Open market sale of rice and wheat from public stocks has en abled the Government to stabilise the price of both these vital cereals, Plac ing sugar on OGL and imports of 10 \Ah tonnes for supply through PDS helped in overcoming the difficulty that arose from sharp drop in domestic output of sugar in 1993-94. Similarly, import of palmolein oil for supply through PDS on a concessional duty of 20 per cent and more recently placing of all major edible oils under OGL at a reduced duty of 30 per cent is aimed to contain further inflationary pressures in essential commodities. On the demand side the Government is determined to contain the growth of money supply during the current fiscal year for which a number of steps have already been initiated.

Loss of Revenue

195- SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Gov ernment has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Revenue Loss of Rs-323 crore due to under assessment; CAG reveals excise irregularities" and "13,916 under assessment cases" ap pearing in the National Herald and Hindustan Times dated 6-5-92 and 11-5-94;

(b) if so, the facts theerof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The observations of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) referred to in the question have been examined and appropriate act on to safe guard revenue interests has been taken-

Survey conducted by I.T. Deptt.

196. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whethr the income-tax department of Delhi had carried out a survey to find out the tax defaulters and widening the base of rendering better services to the tax payers:

(b) whether the income-tax department was also collecting data on financial transactions carried out in 1993-94 by those who carried out telegraphic transfer from one bank to another, those booking imported cars and luxury flats, those who spent huge amounts on interior decoration, lottery agents, those seeking membership Of resort clubs etc-;

(c) whether the data has been collected and if so, the details thereof and what has been made out of that by the I. T. Department;

(d) the details of the I. T. collection made during 1994-95 and how does that compare with die preceding three years in the same period;

(e) the number of employees of the IT Department in Delhi found involved in aiding and abetting the evasion of die tax and in corruption cases; and

(f) the details thereof and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In die usual course of its work, Central Information Branch of Investigation Directorate at Delhi collects information from various sources. The information is collated, verified and passed on to the assessing officers for use in assessment proceedings. In the financial year 1993-94, the Branch Collected 1,47,358 pieces of information. In the same period, 1,27,638 pieces of information were verified.

(d) Personal income-tax collection in Delhi Charge in the period April-November for this and earlier three years is indicated below:—

(In crore)

1994-95	1993-94	1992-93	1991-92
729.58	497.57	461.56	299.69

(e) and (f) During financial year 1994-95, enquiries were initiated against five employees of the Department to determine dieir role in aiding and abetting tax evasion and in corruption cases. Two of these employees were also placed under sus-pension.

Terms of reference of the Fifth Pay Commission

197- SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will die Minister of FINANCE be,pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Ques-
tion 72 given in Rajya Sabha on 14th Sabha on 14th *Feb-*, 1995 and to state:

(a) whether the Commission has taken amy actios on the revises terms of reference and if so, die details diereof; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to ask the Commission to Submit its report by the end of 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The Pay Commission have informed that action on the revised Terms of Reference has been initiated.

(b) The Commission has been requested to submit its report as sotm as feasible-